# Drought Status and Outlook

## Latest Drought Information Statement

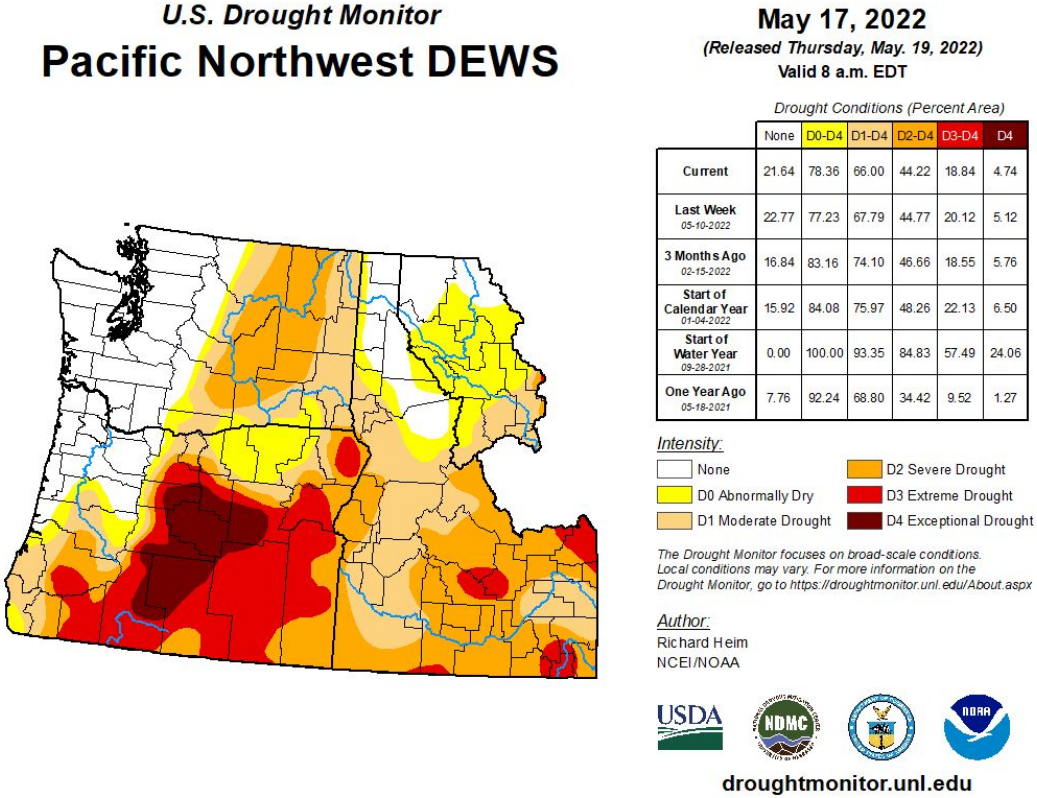
May 19, 2022…**Updated**

National Weather Service Spokane

# Severe and Extreme Drought for the Inland NW

Slight improvements in drought were reported across the Inland Northwest.

- Extreme (D3) drought has been removed across eastern Washington.
- Severe (D2) drought continues across the Columbia Basin into northeast Washington.




https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/

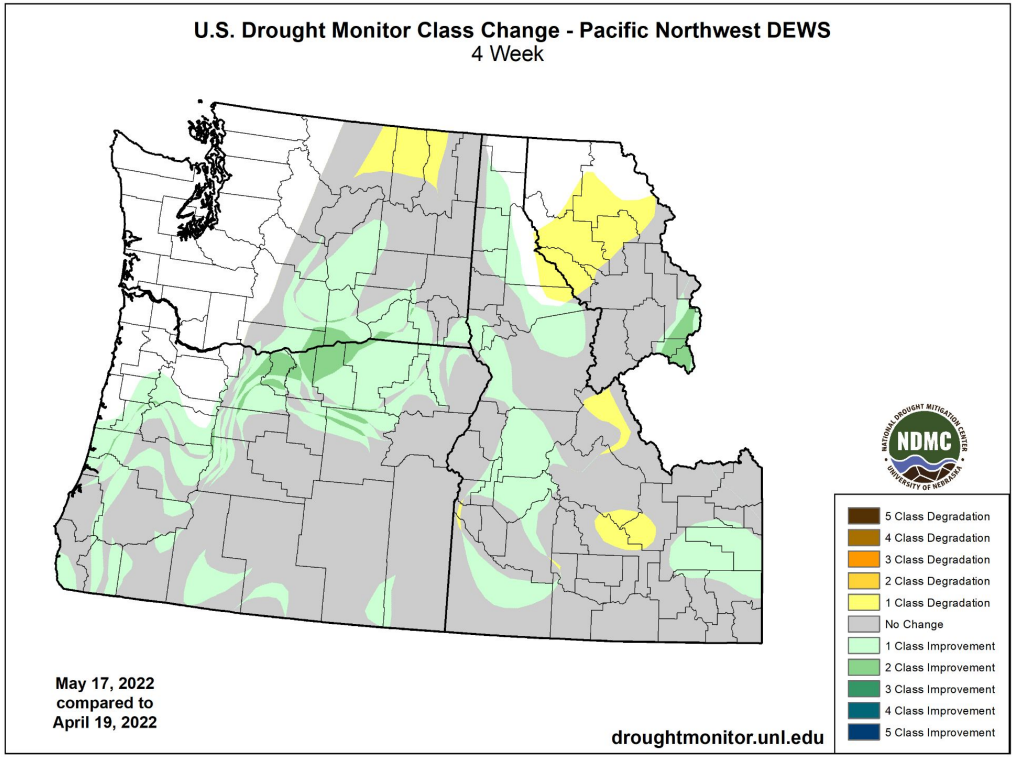
# One Month Drought Change

While winter precipitation was near normal in the northern Cascades and the Panhandle mountains, below normal precipitation stretched across eastern Washington into the lowlands of north Idaho.

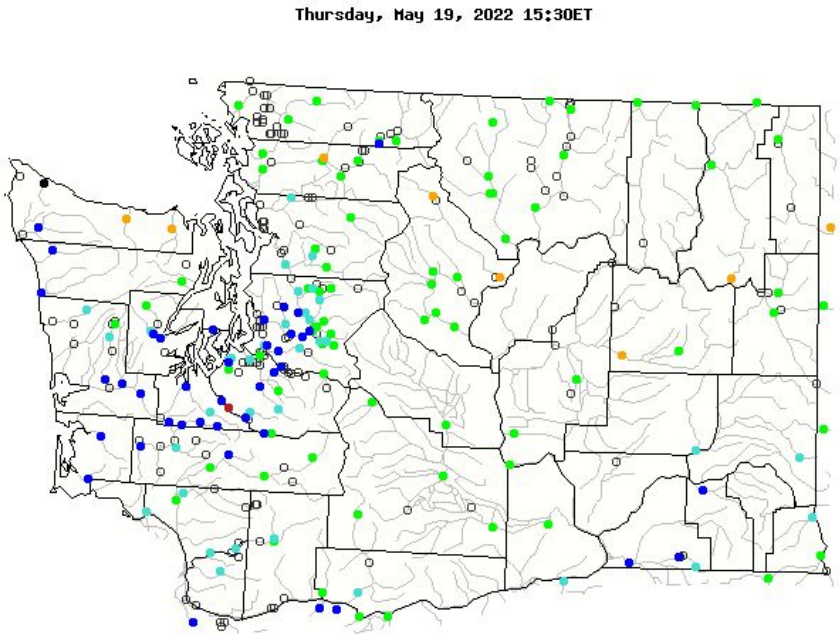
Spring storms did bring an increase of precipitation in April and early May accompanied by cooler temperatures to many areas. This helped boost mountain snowpack and delayed the mountain snowmelt season.

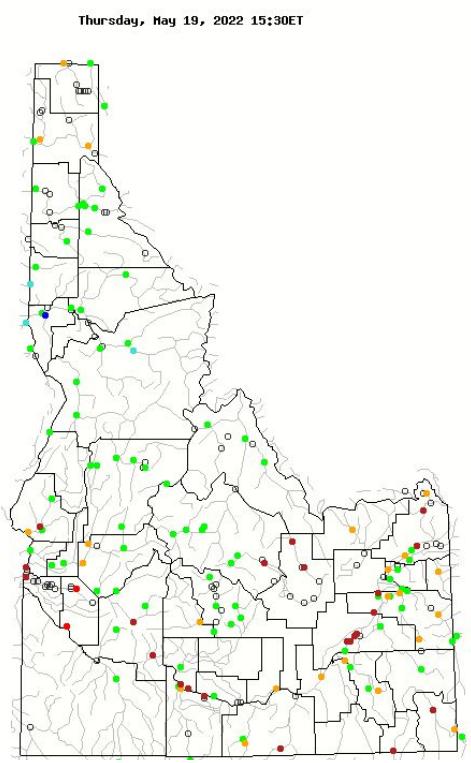
Despite the welcome spring precipitation, long term precipitation deficits still remain across much of eastern Washington.

https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Maps/ChangeMaps.aspx



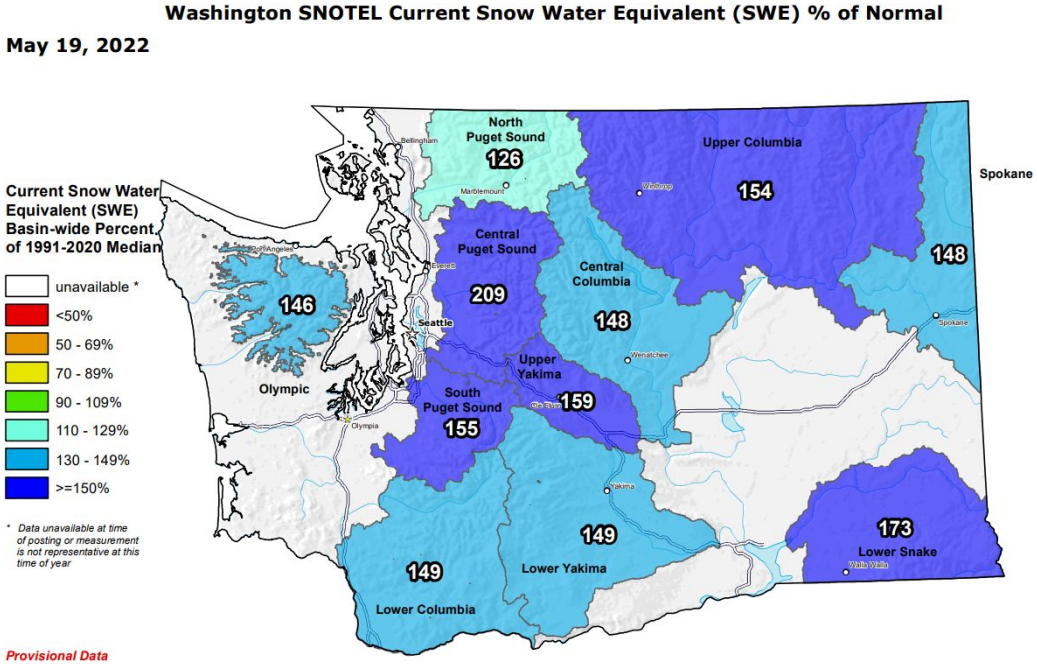
# Drought Impacts - Streamflows

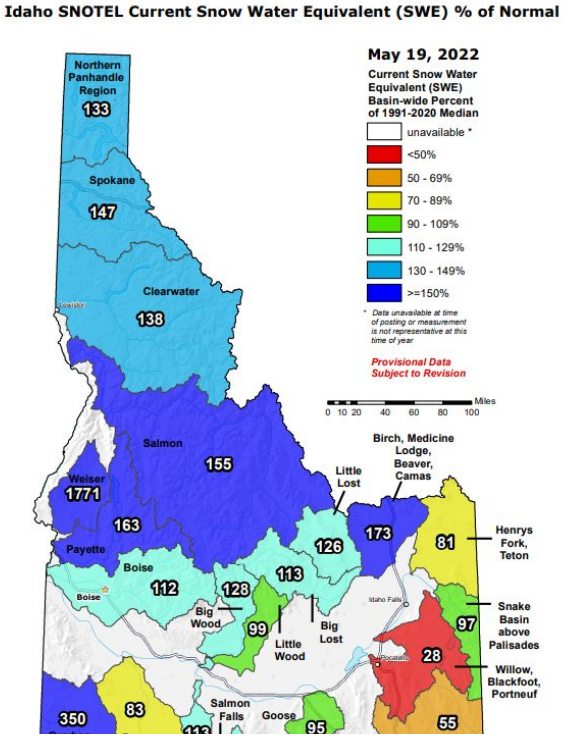



The spring runoff and precipitation has supported near to above normal stream flows in most of eastern Washington and north Idaho. There were pockets of below normal stream flows across the parts of Columbia Basin. While mainstem rivers that benefit from Canadian mountain snowpack look excellent for water supply, many local ponds, lakes, and streams across parts of north-central Washington remain at low levels. https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/

# Drought Impacts - Mountain Snowpack



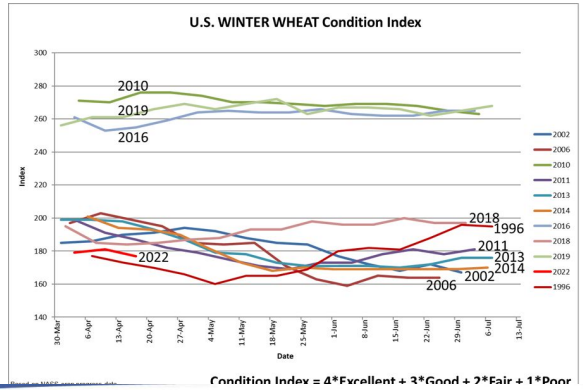



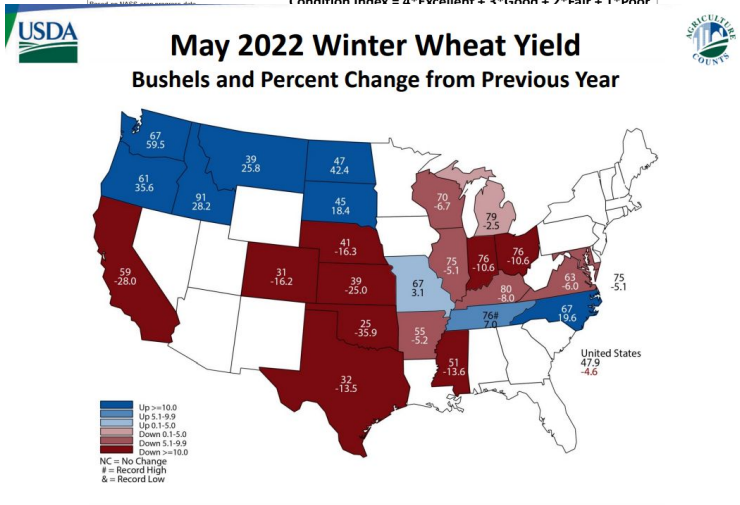

After the lack of significant precipitation in February and March, mountain snowpack slipped below normal by 70% to 90% in many areas and was seeing an early melt off especially at the middle slopes. The arrival of the cooler and wetter conditions in April and early May allowed the high mountain snowpack to hold steady and delay the snowmelt season. For mid May, remaining high mountain snow is 100% to 150% of normal in the northern

# Drought Impacts - Agriculture

The cold and wet weather in April and early May slowed the fieldwork across north Idaho and parts of eastern Washington. Both planting progress and emergent growth lagged from previous years. Winter wheat yields look promising across the Inland Northwest and growers are optimistic yet cautious given lower subsoil moisture levels.

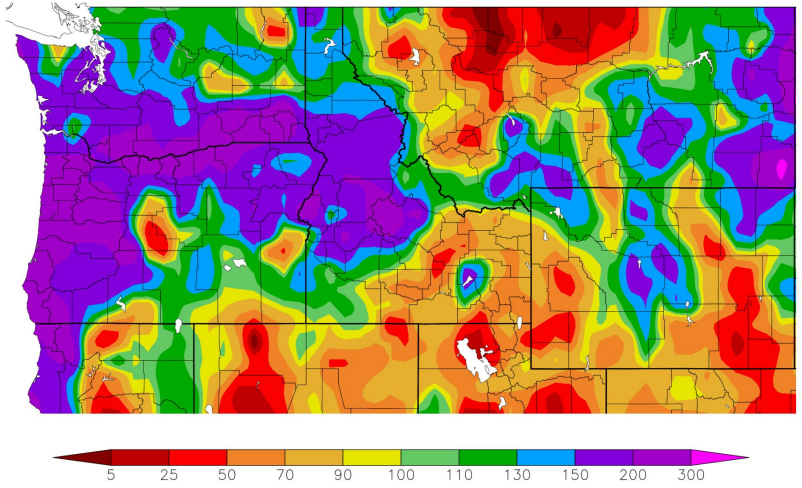
Some drought stricken areas of central Washington did see small improvements in winter wheat and range conditions due to the spring precipitation, yet it was not widespread and lacked in north central Washington. Breezy conditions continue to bring patchy blowing dust to parts of the Columbia Basin where recent fieldwork was done. Livestock producers in central Washington have concerns on the outlook of hay and rangeland for their herds.[nass.usda.gov/statics_by_State](nass.usda.gov/statics_by_State)



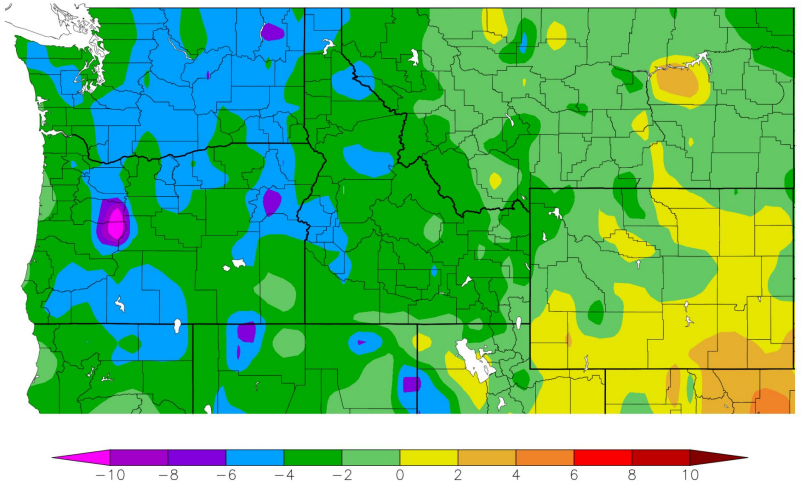
# Last 30 Days

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
4/19/2022 – 5/18/2022




In the last month, precipitation varied greatly across the region. Amounts were below normal across much northeast Washington. Meanwhile above normal precipitation spanned from the central Cascades across parts of the lower Columbia Basin to the Palouse into the southern Idaho Panhandle.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
4/19/2022 – 5/18/2022

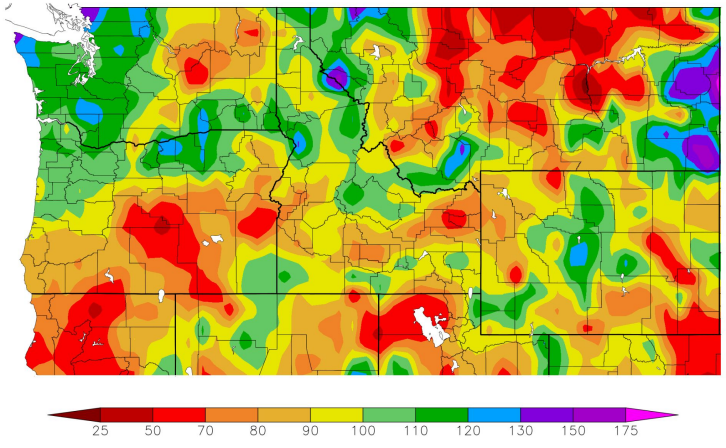



In the last month, temperatures were unseasonably cooler region-wide.

https://hprcc.unl.edu/maps.php?map=ACISClimateMaps

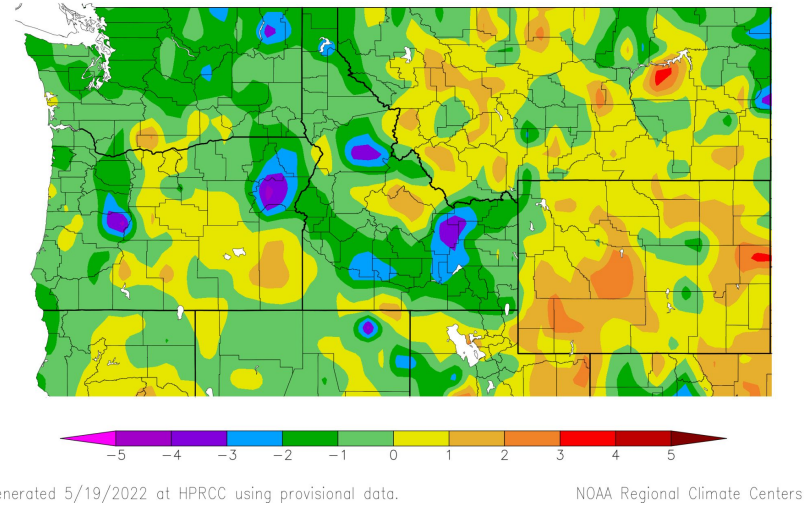
# Water Year 2022

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
10/1/2021 – 5/18/2022




Since October 1, 2021, above normal precipitation by 100% to 120% was found in the northern Cascades and part of northern Idaho Panhandle. Meanwhile below normal precipitation of 70% to 90% can be found across much of eastern Washington including the central Columbia Basin.

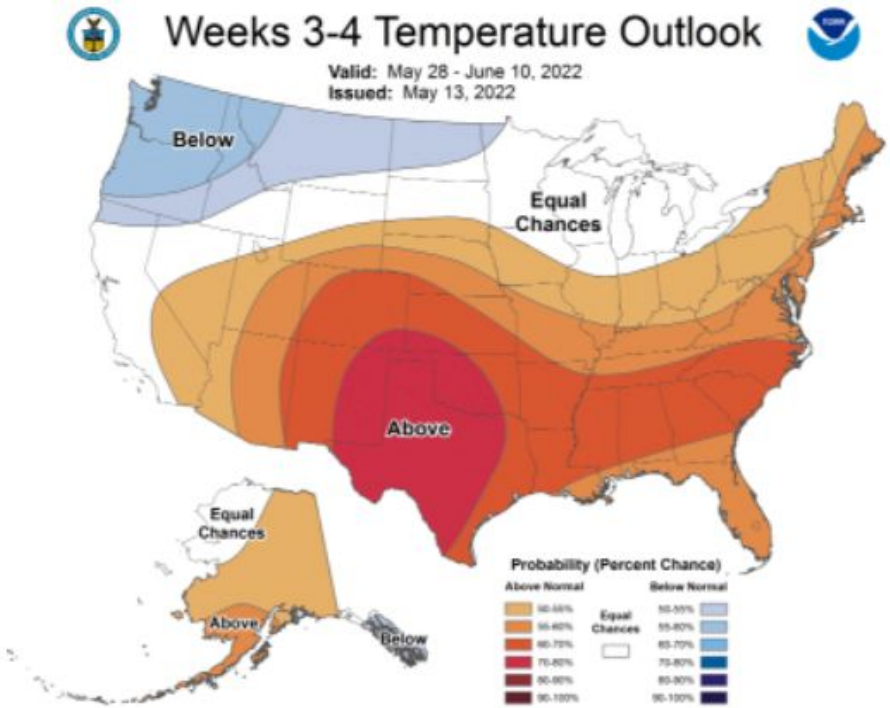
Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
10/1/2021 – 5/18/2022

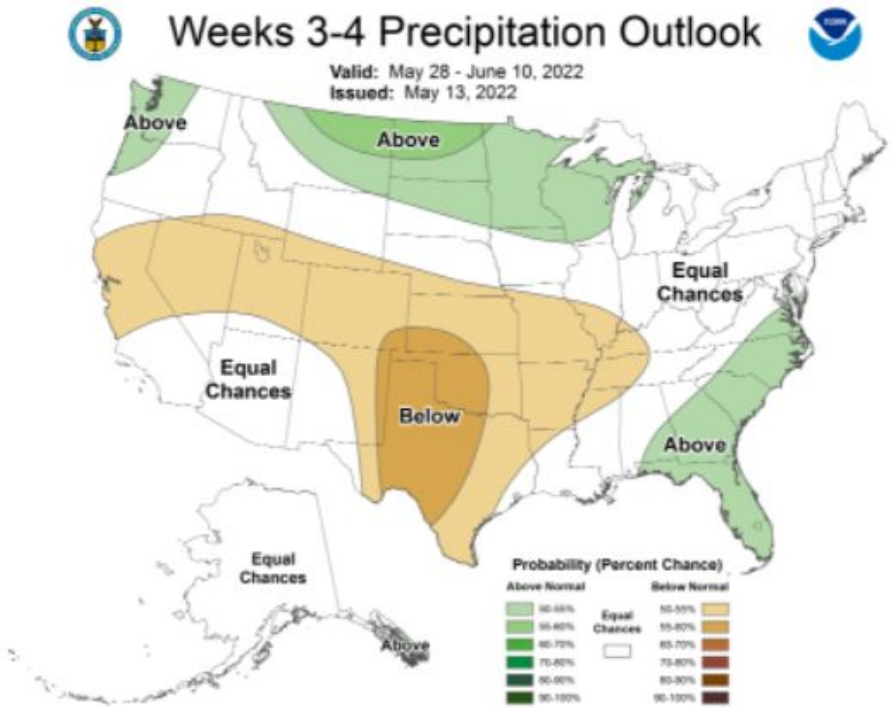



When comparing temperatures since last October, they have been near to above normal in the Cascades and Idaho Panhandle and below normal across the lower elevations of eastern Washington.

https://hprcc.unl.edu/maps.php?map=ACISClimateMaps

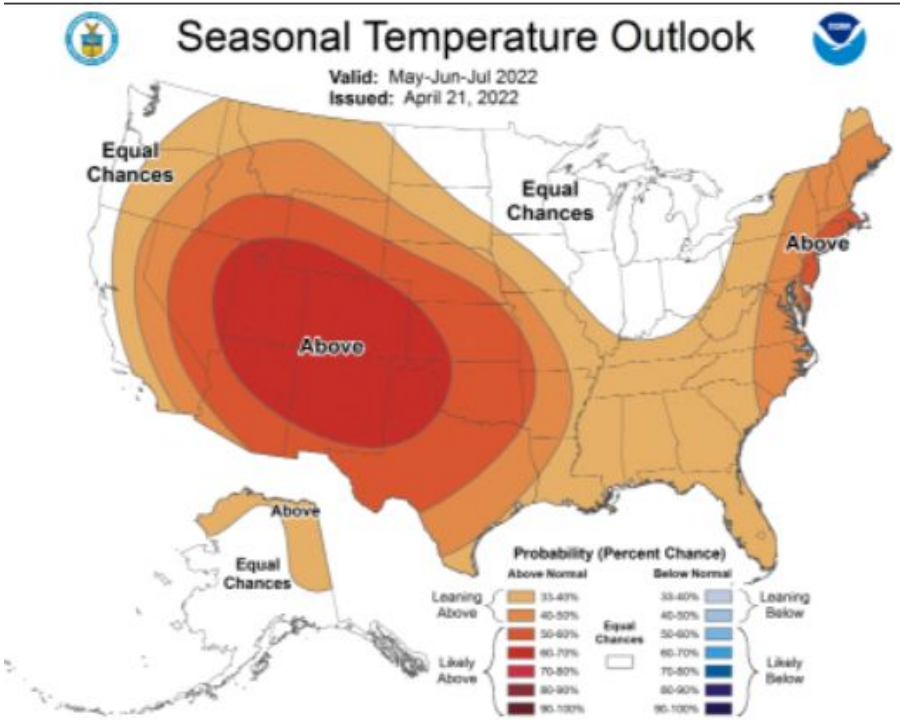
# CPC Outlook ~ through late May

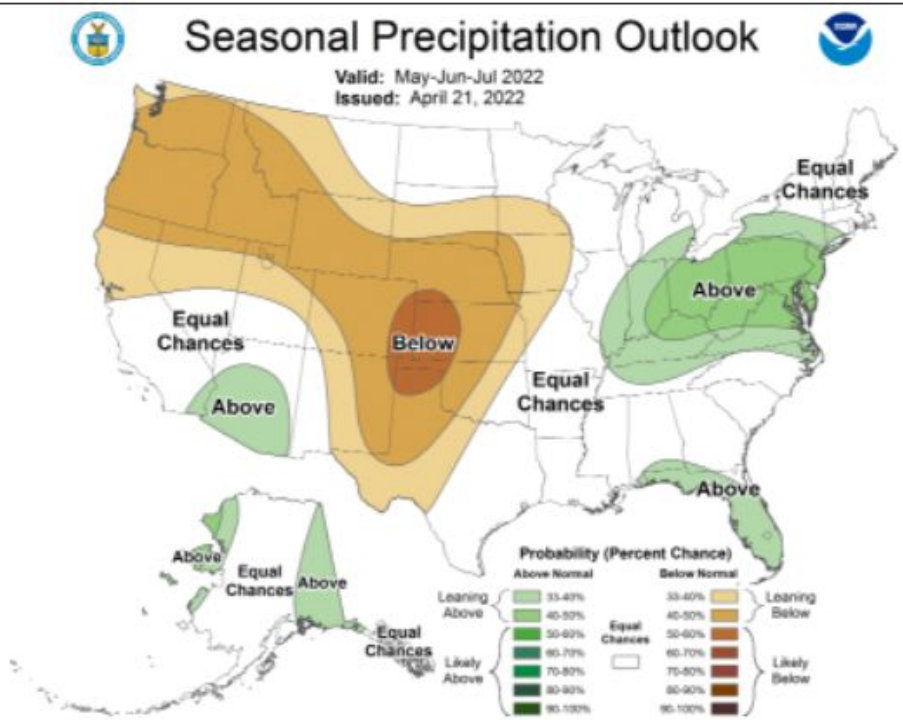



The Climate Prediction Center`s outlook for the rest of May into early June leans toward a continuation of below normal temperatures and above normal precipitation. https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov

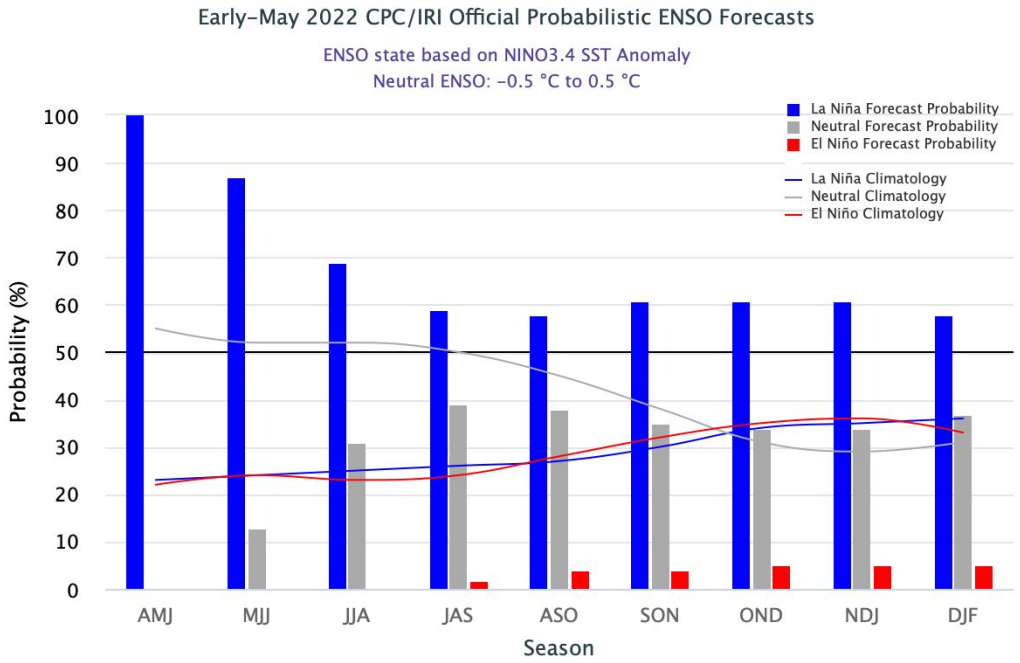
# CPC Outlook ~ 3 Month Outlook - June through August

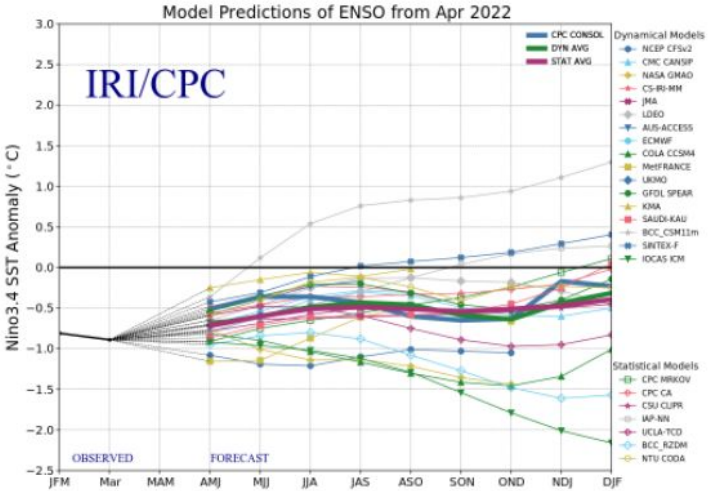



The three month outlook for June through August favors above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation for the upcoming summer season. https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov

# La Nina Outlook



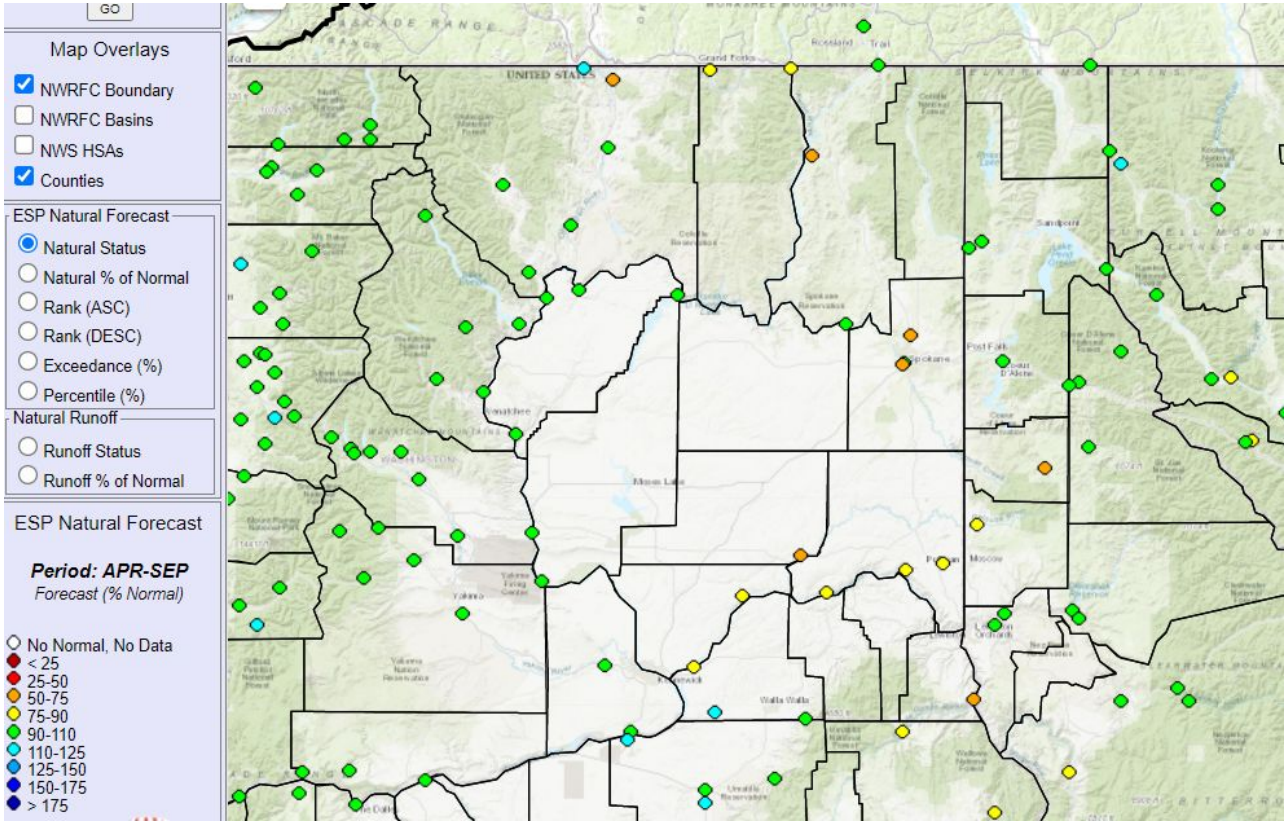




A La Nina Advisory remains in effect for the spring and summer. https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/

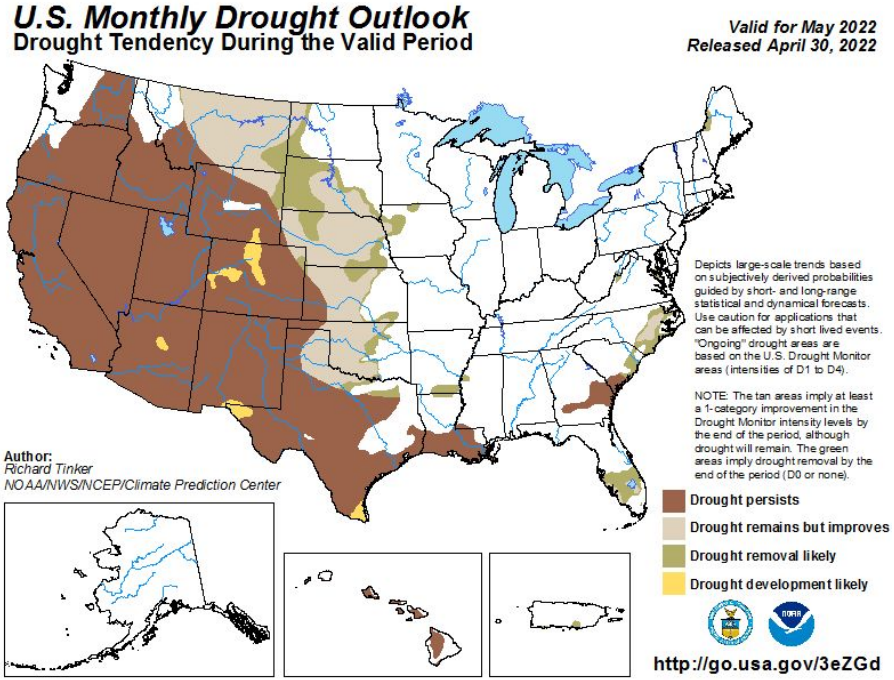
# NWRFC Water Supply Forecast

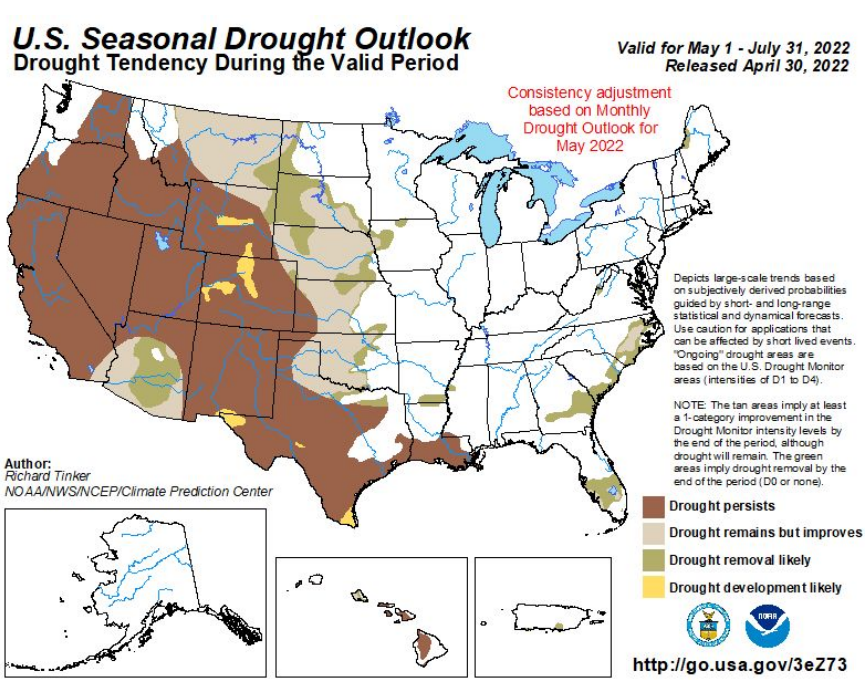
The Northwest River Forecast Center`s water supply forecasts are  near to above normal flows near the Columbia in central Washington  and much of north Idaho, while below normal values are anticipated  for the lower Snake River basin of southeast Washington.

https://www.nwrfc.noaa.gov/rfc/



# Monthly and Seasonal Drought Outlook




The Monthly and Seasonal Drought Outlook shows drought conditions to persist across much eastern Washington with little to no improvements suggested. https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/

# Drought Summary

- Slight improvements  in the drought coverage and intensity over the last month.  Extreme (D3) Drought found in the Columbia basin has been removed.

- Severe (D2) Drought span across much of in eastern Washington. Moderate (D1) Drought continues in extreme eastern Washington into the southern Idaho Panhandle.

- Cooler and wetter April and early May allowed mountain snowpack to continue at the higher elevations, delaying the snowmelt season.

- The Seasonal Outlook leans warmer and drier conditions for June through August with drought conditions persisting in the months to come.

- Please report any drought conditions or impacts to NWS Spokane at nws.spokane@noaa.gov or through the National Drought Mitigation Center at https://droughtimpacts.unl.edu/

# Drought Related Web Sites

U.S. Drought Portal: www.drought.gov

US Drought Monitor: www.droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Western Region Climate Center: /www.wrcc.dri.edu

Climate Prediction Center: www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov

National Interagency Coordination Center: www.nifc.gov

USGS Streamflows: www.waterwatch.usgs.gov

NWS Water Supply Forecasts: www.nwrfc.noaa.gov

US Army Corps of Engineers: www.usace.army.mil

NRCS Water Supply Forecasts: www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov

Idaho Department of Water Resources: www.idwr.idaho.gov

Idaho Climate Office: www.uidaho.edu/extension/climate-services

Washington Department of Ecology: www.ecology.wa.gov

Washington Climate Office: www.climate.washington.edu

NWS Spokane: www.weather.gov/Spokane